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See previous "Documents on the Web" at
<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/intrelations/webalert/default.htm>

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Africa

◆ **MORE THAN HUMANITARIANISM: A STRATEGIC U.S. APPROACH TOWARD AFRICA**

Chair: Anthony Lake, Christine Todd Whitman, Governor, New Jersey

Director: Princeton N. Lyman, Ralph Bunche Senior Fellow for Africa Policy Studies, J. Stephen Morrison

Council on Foreign Relations, January 2006, 168 p.

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Africa_Task_Force_Web.pdf

The report notes that Africa is of growing international importance, playing an increasingly significant role in supplying energy, preventing the spread of terrorism, and halting the devastation of HIV/AIDS. African production of oil and gas is increasing rapidly as U.S. competition with China and other countries is intensifying for access to resources on the continent. By 2010, Africa may be supplying the United States as much of America's energy imports as the Middle East. The continuing atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan are also testing the international community's resolve to devote meaningful resources to Africa. The Task Force calls on the United States to "mobilize international support to secure the ground and compel a negotiated settlement." The Task Force notes that some 40 percent of African states are now electoral democracies and calls for greater partnership to support the many positive changes taking place in Africa. "A core of democratically elected presidents is leading the continent in the direction of greater democracy, improved governance, and sound economic policies," says the report.

Asia

◆ **AFGHANISTAN: POST-WAR GOVERNANCE, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY**

Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs,
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report, Updated January 11, 2006, 54 p.

<http://italy.usembassy.gov/pdf/other/RL30588.pdf>

"Afghanistan's political transition is proceeding, but insurgent threats to Afghanistan's government persist... U.S. stabilization measures focus on strengthening the central government and its security forces while combating insurgents. The United States and other countries are building an Afghan National Army; deploying a multinational International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to patrol Kabul and other cities; and running regional enclaves to secure reconstruction (Provincial Reconstruction Teams, PRTs). Approximately 18,000 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan to combat the Taliban-led insurgency, but the United States and NATO have agreed to shift more of the security burden to NATO during 2006, and U.S. force levels are now programmed to drop to about 16,500 by mid-2006. To build security institutions and assist reconstruction, the United States gave Afghanistan about \$3.35 billion in an FY2005 supplemental appropriation (P.L. 109-13), including funds for Afghan security forces. Another \$931 million is provided for in the conference report on the regular FY2006 aid appropriation (P.L. 109-102)."

◆ **U.S. NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA: ISSUES FOR CONGRESS**

Sharon Squassoni.

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report, Jan. 12, 2006, 25 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/59365.pdf>

The author examines what impact U.S.-India civil nuclear energy cooperation could have on both U.S. nonproliferation policies, and the global nonproliferation regime. She writes that Administration officials have described such cooperation as a "win" for nonproliferation because it would bring India into the nonproliferation mainstream. By contrast, some experts have

suggested that the potential costs to U.S. and global nonproliferation policy of bringing India into the mainstream via a cooperation agreement, may far exceed the benefits. Because India does not meet existing nonproliferation criteria under current U.S. law, significant U.S.-Indian nuclear cooperation would require consent by Congress. The author describes the three legislative options Congress can utilize to authorize its consent-comply with existing law, amend existing law, or propose stand-alone legislation. She also suggests several substantive questions that Congress may want to raise in its consultations with the Administration over implementation of a U.S.-Indian nuclear cooperation agreement.

Defense

◆ QUADRENNIAL DEFENSE REVIEW REPORT 2006

U.S. Department of Defense, Feb. 2006, 117 p.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/qdr/report/Report20060203.pdf>

“The QDR is part of the continuum of transformation in the Defense Department. Its purpose is to help shape the process of change to provide the United States with strong, sound and effective war fighting capabilities in the decades ahead.”

◆ RESTORING AMERICAN MILITARY POWER: A PROGRESSIVE QUADRENNIAL DEFENSE REVIEW

by Lawrence J. Korb, Caroline P. Wadhams, and Andrew J. Grotto

Center for American Progress, January 2006, 108 p.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/apps/nl/content3.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=837249&ct=1808175>

“The United States enters the 21st century with unmatched military power and unprecedented challenges. In order to meet these challenges, the Department of Defense over the next four years must begin a fundamental shift in military doctrine and priorities so that this country is better positioned to respond to the threats of a post-Cold War and post-9/11 world and to project power whenever and wherever necessary.

This Quadrennial Defense Review outlines a strategy that gives top priority to protecting the homeland, investing in military personnel, and preventing conflicts. It gives the military the manpower and technology it needs to best combat asymmetric threats from non-state actors such as terrorist groups, to deter and contain traditional enemies, and to fulfill its responsibilities in post-conflict situations. It aims to produce a more powerful, flexible, and agile military force that can best protect the American people and advance U.S. national interests. Implemented over time, it will rebalance forces and weaponry in order to allow the United States to protect the homeland, fight one major regional conflict, engage simultaneously in two substantial post-conflict missions, and contain conflict in three regions.

This strategy is based on the twin principles of realism and integration. Realism to best respond to the threats the U.S. faces, to allocate limited financial resources available for defense in a cost-effective manner, and to redefine the military's capabilities and responsibilities after the fighting ends. Integration to best unite the efforts of the different armed services and non-military government agencies, to get the most from alliances across the globe, and to rebalance spending to allow the United States to go beyond the military and exercise all the instruments of power.”

Middle East

◆ UNDERSTANDING IRAN'S NUCLEAR MANEUVERS

Jon B. Wolfsthal, Fellow International Security Program

CSIS, January 11, 2006, 4 p.

http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,2654/

CSIS Fellow John Wolfstahl offers an analysis of Iran's decision to resume its uranium enrichment program and the EU's subsequent call for UN Security Council action. Iran's move, according to Wolfstahl, is "a test of the international community's resolve and ability to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. An inadequate response could leave Iran's pathway to a nuclear weapon wide-open..."

NATO

♦ NATO'S FRONTIERS: EURASIA, THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND THE GREATER MIDDLE EAST

by Ariel Cohen, Ph.D.

Heritage Foundation, Heritage Lecture #919, January 9, 2006, 7 p.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/hl919.cfm>

"Seventeen years since the fall of the Berlin Wall is sufficient time to reflect upon the amazing transformation of NATO and its frontiers. From bringing the Central European states back into their European home, whole and free, to extending membership to the former captive nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, NATO has done very well indeed."

Terrorism

♦ AL QAEDA: STATEMENTS AND EVOLVING IDEOLOGY

Christopher M. Blanchard, Analyst in Middle Eastern Affairs,
Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report, Updated January 26, 2006, 18 p.

<http://italy.usembassy.gov/pdf/other/RL32759.pdf>

♦ TRANSNATIONAL THREATS UPDATE JANUARY 2006

CSIS, Vol. 4, No. 2, Feb. 1, 2006, 6 p.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/ttu_0601.pdf

In this issue:

- Fake Passport Ring in Colombia Linked with Al Qaeda and Hamas
- Spanish Terrorist Cells Linked with North Africa and Europe
- Experts Warn of Increasing Attacks on Tourists in Southeast Asia
- New Terrorist Group Formed by Jemaah Islamiyah Member
- Evidence of Iraqi Terror Tactics in Afghanistan
- Arms Crossing World Borders
- Women Smuggled to India for Sex Industry
- Cocaine in Britain Linked to Colombia Drug Lords
- Oil Companies Targeted in Nigeria and India
- Europe and North Africa Dismantle Terror Cells
- European Police Force Established

U.S. Foreign Relations

♦ AN AMBIVALENT ALLIANCE: THE FUTURE OF U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

Abdel Monem Said Aly

Brookings Institution, The Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Analysis Paper, Number 6, Jan. 2006, 46 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/saban/analysis/abdelmonem20060131.pdf>

Abdel Monem Said Aly, the director of the Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo was a Visiting Fellow at the Saban Center during 2004. In this paper he argues that the

U.S.-Egyptian relationship is going through a period of crisis and uncertainty. The two countries have long shared common strategic goals and interests. From the Egyptian perspective, the difficulties stem from the recent shift in U.S. policy, in particular since September 11. The problems in the relationship, while serious, have not made sustaining the alliance between Egypt and the United States irretrievable. However, action does need to be taken to restore both political and public confidence in this critical alliance.

Abdel Monem writes that there are five values that must underpin the renewed U.S.-Egyptian alliance. First, the alliance needs to be founded upon transparency, because without more awareness of the benefits of the relationship public opinion in Egypt and the United States will remain skeptical about the two countries' strategic cooperation. Second, there must be realism. The differences between Egypt and the United States relate not to ethnic nor religious characteristics, but concern policies. Third, legitimacy is important. The legitimacy of the alliance between a super power and a regional power, an inherently imbalanced relationship, is often questioned in Egypt. However, the achievements of Egypt and the United States working in concert need to be promoted to overcome this criticism of the relationship. Fourth, the two countries need to assert the centrality of Middle East peace as a strategic goal for the region. Fifth, a Concert of Powers must be a core value. Egypt and the United States must believe in the necessity of building a wide-ranging regional coalition for moderation and modernization.

The United States and Egypt should establish three new bodies and initiatives. First, there needs to be a U.S.-Egyptian political council. Second, there must be a U.S.-Egyptian cultural initiative and third, an economic initiative could help to stimulate U.S. investment in Egypt, which to date has been relatively meager.

◆ **CENTRAL ASIA: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERESTS**

Jim Nichol, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated Jan. 24, 2006, 19 p.
<http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/crsCentralAsia24Jan06.pdf>

"After September 11, 2001, U.S. policy emphasized bolstering the security of the Central Asian states to help them combat terrorism, proliferation, and arms trafficking. Other strategic interests include internal reforms (democratization, free markets, and human rights) and energy development. Administration policy also aims to integrate these states into the international community so that they follow responsible security and other policies, and to discourage the growth of xenophobic, fundamentalist, and anti-Western orientations that threaten peace and stability."

◆ **CHINA-U.S. RELATIONS: CURRENT ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY**

Kerry Dumbaugh, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report, Updated January 20, 2006, 39 p.

<http://italy.usembassy.gov/pdf/other/RL32804.pdf>

"Throughout much of the George W. Bush Administration, U.S.-China relations have remained unusually smooth and stable. But in the 109th Congress, U.S. policy toward China appears to be subject to competing reassessments. State Department officials late in 2005 unveiled what they described as a new policy framework for the relationship — one in which the United States was willing to work cooperatively with a non-democratic China while encouraging Beijing to become a "responsible stakeholder" in the global system. Other U.S. policymakers appear to be adopting somewhat tougher stances on issues involving China and U.S.-China relations, expressing their concerns about strong PRC economic growth and a more assertive and influential PRC diplomacy in the international arena."

◆ **FRANCE: FACTORS SHAPING FOREIGN POLICY, AND ISSUES IN U.S.-FRENCH RELATIONS**

Paul Gallis, Specialist in European Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report, Updated January 3, 2006,
33 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61487.pdf>

"The factors that shape French foreign policy have changed since the end of the Cold War. The perspectives of France and the United States have diverged in some cases. More core interests remain similar. Both countries' governments have embraced the opportunity to build stability in Europe through an expanded European Union and NATO. Each has recognized that terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are the most important threats to their security today."

◆ **U.S.-UK RELATIONS AT THE START OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

Jeffrey D. McCausland and Douglas T. Stuart.

United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI), January 2006, 225 p.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?PubID=633>

In his introduction, Ambassador Mitchell B. Reiss, Special Envoy to the Northern Ireland Peace Process, writes that theorists have a difficult time explaining the relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom * especially its remarkable endurance over the past six decades. For, almost from its inception, the relationship has been fraught with disagreement and acrimony, often over existential matters of war and peace.

Reiss posits that it is the two countries' ability to disagree and argue passionately, candidly, and forcefully with each other-and then to pick up the pieces, place their anger behind them, and go forward together - that makes the relationship special and explains why it has thrived.

"Disagreement and resolution are the hallmark signs of a healthy partnership."

This monograph is a compilation of experts' papers delivered at conferences at both Dickinson College and the Defense Academy of the United Kingdom on "The Future of the Special Relationship." The papers examine the economic and business, political and legal, foreign policy, and security and defense aspects of the U.S.-U.K relationship.

Visit the IRC website at

<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/default.htm>

